

Health Policy Oversight Committee Meeting

December 19, 2012

Good Afternoon,

My name is Diane Purcell, and I am the Director of Security Benefit Academy and a member of the BEST Team. Security Benefit Academy is a corporate sponsored child care program here in Topeka, licensed for 152 children ages six weeks to 12 years. We care for children and grandchildren of Security Benefit Associates as well as children from community families.

As a member of the BEST Team I worked with other child care center directors, home care providers, parents of children in care, child care licensing surveyors, KDHE staff and other community members to help improve protections for children in out of home care by strengthening regulations for child care programs in Kansas.

I would like to express my support of the new protections in place for children in out of home care that have resulted from the passage and implementation of "Lexie's Law".

Primary components of Lexie's Law include:

- Mandatory First Aid and CPR training for all teachers and child care providers
- Mandatory training in Safe Sleep practices to reduce the incidence of SIDS
- Mandatory training in child growth and development
- The KDHE parent portal where parents can access the licensing history of specific child care centers as well as home care providers.

Appropriate training is a determining factor in providing a safe environment for children, in having staff available who know how to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency, and in knowing what is appropriate for children at various developmental stages.

All parents of children in care should be assured of these minimal levels of training for their young children regardless of their income level, or whether they choose home or center care for their child.

These new protections for children have moved Kansas up in the ranking of states by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies from 46th to 3rd place, so we can now be proud to say that Kansas offers some of the best protections for our children.

Thank you for your time.

Diane Purcell, Director

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